



2161 #6

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

JUL 12 2001

Sir:

Technology Center 2100

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

A copy of an International Search Report is enclosed herewith. The documents listed on Form-1449 (modified) include those cited in the International Search Report of PCT Application No. PCT/EP 98/00874 (3 pages).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

Information Disclosure Statement
USSN 09/762,541
July 5, 2001
Page 2

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

If any fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0415 or credit any overpayment to our Account No. 12-0415. No fees should be due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the issuance of the first Office Action.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on July 5, 2001 by Cheryl Liang.



Respectfully submitted,



Ross A. Schmitt
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,529

LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 2100
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 934-2300

Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of International Search Report of PCT Application
No. PCT/EP 98/00874 (3 pages)
Copy of documents cited in Form PTO-1449 (modified)